

June 2017



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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One way you can support the ministry of IREF is through annual fundraising events. This year the 6th annual IREF Golf Outing will be taking place at the **Highland Park Country Club on Friday July 28th**. Proceeds from this event will go directly to support the children of IREF. Enrollment is open to the public at this time, so please register for Golf or Dinner as soon as possible at www.irefusa.org so the IREF team can begin planning for your arrival. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

In recent years, IREF has experienced the withdrawal of funding from a long-time European ministry partner for child funding and sponsorship. Operating relief efforts from outside India has been made increasingly difficult for many foundations and groups who want to give. Sadly, this is a common occurrence for organizations around the globe who have reluctantly felt the need to step away from funding ministries and the people they love in India. This funding shortfall has been a substantial hardship for IREF and the young people in our care. The golf outing idea truly was a leap of faith by the US board to make up that shortfall in a fun, but very effective way.

We need your help. It's that simple. The IREF Annual Golf Outing has become a tremendous blessing and major source of our funding in a way no one could have envisioned six years ago. The needs are numerous for the many lives touched by our Lord through the ministry of IREF. Fortunately, the ways you can help are numerous as well!

The Difference You Can Make:

Get a foursome (or two) together to golf with us, which includes lunch and dinner, or come to the dinner banquet to hear a ministry update. Participating in the event this way helps raise funds, but this is just a small part.

Become a sponsor! We have Event, Dinner and Lunch sponsorships available that have proven to be a huge part of the fundraising success of this event. We provide signage for all who bless us with this kind of sponsorship. See the enclosed flyer for details.

Be a hole sponsor! Do you have a business? Do your friends or family members have a business? What a great way to advertise with a sign with your logo. One year a family sponsored a hole and requested we made a sign for them with pictures of their grandkids!

Donate items for our silent auction. The auction is a very successful part of our fundraising. Do you have a time-share or cabin you could offer? Could you offer up a tour of your interesting workplace? Do you have season tickets for sports teams, opera, or theater? Did you receive a gift or gift card that you won't use? Re-gifting here is welcome and raises funds! One donor used his credit card points to "purchase" items that sold very well. Be creative! Anything goes!

Invite your friends and introduce them to IREF. Write a check, even if you can't attend. Volunteer to help with set-up for the big day!

Finally, whatever you are able to do to make the IREF Golf Outing a success, **please pray for the event and hold this ministry you love up in prayer!**





June 2017
continued...

India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

Annual Survey Data of Returning Students

shows evidence of God's work being completed at IREF. Every year upon their return, college students are randomly selected to answer some brief questions surrounding their time spent on summer break and their hopes for the future year at IREF. This year 41 college students were surveyed and the data analyzed to discuss improvements IREF could make to further foster a sound educational and spiritual environment for the children to grow and develop.

For starters, each child was asked what religion is practiced at home and survey data on 41 children showed that 10 children came from Christian homes, 18 children came from Hindu homes and 2 came from Muslim homes. Then, each child was asked how consistently they were able to read their Bible. The response varied with many children stating that they did not read their Bible as much as they did while at IREF. Ironically, when each student was asked what they looked forward to upon their arrival back to IREF, they responded that they looked forward to being in church on Sunday mornings and to hearing the Message in evening devotions. The last question revolved around what each child hoped to gain in the coming year and unanimously every child wished for good grades or marks.

When considering the responses many children gave to these questions there are many conclusions that can be drawn. At IREF, the main mission is to ensure each child is able to build a strong relationship with Jesus Christ. Education is used as a vehicle to mold minds and encourage development and growth. God's promises are the means by which each child is able to take themselves out of the grips of life's circumstances and crave a relationship that will elevate them through life's struggles. IREF would expect that in the current cultural climate each child would want to succeed and get good marks. However, one thing that is not shared culture-wide is a relationship with Jesus Christ and we gauge that by each student's desire to be involved in worship. IREF is encouraged by this year's survey data and how many children expressed their desire to worship upon return to IREF.

Prayer Requests and Praise

- Please be praying for the 6th annual golf outing. Pray that it will be a successful event and a day of great fellowship and celebrating all that God is doing.
- As a new academic year kicks off, please pray for the IREF teachers and educational staff members. May the Lord bless each one of His servants to lead faithfully.
- Praise God for a successful and healthy academic year. We thank God for the teachers, professors, principals and administrative staff for their dedication and diligence in serving the Lord through IREF.
- Praise God for His provision of a new US Director for IREF! We thank all of our supporters who prayed with us and helped us through the process.
- Praise God for the hundreds of individuals who accepted Christ as their Savior throughout the academic year and made the public confession of faith through baptism.
- Evangelists and Bible Ladies are wrapping up the summer Gospel meetings in over 100 villages to encourage IREF congregations and also spread the Good News throughout rural Southeast India. Please pray for lives to change, and the staff as they often face much persecution during this time.
- Please pray for the strength and prosperity of our supporting churches, businesses and sponsors.

